

1. Does Fresno COG possess, or have access to a regional travel demand model that it wants to be used for this study?

Fresno COG has an Activity-Based Model (ABM) that can be used for the modeling tasks of this study as outlined in the Scope of Work.

2. Can it provide the model to the consulting team?

Yes, the ABM can be provided to the consulting team selected for this study.

3. Will Fresno COG consider alternate methods for developing ridership projections?

Yes, Fresno COG would consider alternate methods for developing ridership projections.

4. Are the communities listed for the regional rail system in the RFP an exhaustive list?

The communities listed in the RFP for this study are exhaustive, as they are the communities with existing access to the active railroad network in Fresno County.

5. Are stations envisioned in each of the RFP listed communities or is a phased implementation of stations being considered?

Phased implementation is envisioned for this study under Task 7: Implementation Strategy and Phasing Plan

6. Is the governance and management framework of the regional rail service excluded from this scope?

A governance/management framework is not included in the Scope of Work, but the study doesn't prohibit the consultant team from recommending potential governance and management frameworks for such a regional rail network.

7. Has a potential operator for the Regional Rail service been identified? If yes, who?

A potential operator has not been identified for this regional rail service.

8. The Fresno freight rail realignment study completed in 2010 identified initial alternatives for rail alignment through City of Fresno. Are those alternatives to be considered or included as part of this study?

This study will only consider any rail alignments that are currently existing and operational. No alternatives from the Fresno Freight Rail Realignment Study will be considered as part of this study.

9. Is the study limited to service on UPRR and SJVR rights-of-way?

Yes, the study will be limited to UPRR and SJVR rights-of-way. The study does envision potential rail service to cross over BNSF right-of-way, but not to operate on BNSF.

10. Is there an expectation as to how many of the Stakeholder Working Group meetings will be in person? Can a portion of these meetings be virtual?

The Scope of Work does not set out a specific number of Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) meetings, but typically for Fresno COG studies SWG meetings are held bi-monthly or quarterly. The cadence of SWG meetings can be finalized during the kick-off process of the study.

11. We understand this RFP was previously released in October 2024. Why did Fresno COG choose to rebid this study?

During the initial release of the Request for Proposals, an error in the formation of the RFP Scoring Committee occurred which resulted in needing to recirculate this RFP.

12. What is the evaluation criteria Fresno COG will use to score the consultant teams?

Fresno COG's evaluation criteria consist of awarding points for proposal comprehensiveness, completeness, and meeting the objectives of the RFP. The criteria also give points for the experience of the proposal team and the cost of the proposal.

13. Is there a specific DBE requirement?

There is not a specific DBE requirement on a contract basis. Fresno COG has an agency-wide DBE program, for which the information provided in Attachment B is used in our DBE goal setting and achievement process.

14. Per Attachment B, DBE/WBE Bidders Listing form, bidders claiming DBE status must attach a copy of current Certification issued pursuant to 49 CFP Part 26, and bidders claiming DBE status must attach written affirmation that they will participate in the project. Do these requirements apply to SBE firms?

Fresno COG does not have a specific SBE requirement, and as such these requirements do not apply to SBE firms.

15. Our understanding is that we can propose to contract with Fresno COG on a lump-sum/deliverable payment schedule, but we still must complete and submit the 10-H forms?

Fresno COG does not require the submittal of 10-H forms.

16. Task 4 describes inputs to a ridership demand model and developing a report from the model. Will Fresno Council of Governments develop and provide the model, and the Consultant would be responsible for providing the inputs and developing the report? Or will the consultant be responsible for developing the model?

Fresno COG has an Activity-Based Model (ABM) that can be used for the modeling tasks of this study as outlined in the Scope of Work. The ABM can be provided to the consulting team selected for this study.

17. Would you consider a one-week extension so that we may deliver a comprehensive and well-prepared proposal that aligns with your expectations?

Fresno COG will not extend the deadline for this RFP. All proposals are due to Fresno COG by Thursday, March 13th at 5 pm PST.